

Gender and Environmental Law. Challenges and opportunities for promoting the role of gender in environmental justice

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PANNEL 1: Environmental Law prospects as a tool for promoting gender and LGTBI+ Human Rights in the context of environmental struggles

Women and extractivism: a general overview at female public participation in the consolidation of environmental democracy in Colombia.

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The increasing number of environmental conflicts that have arisen in Colombian territory in recent years, without a doubt, has become more visible with the signing of the 2016 peace agreement with the ex-guerrilla FARC; these new conflicts bring with them concerns for the rights and guarantees that the Colombian State provides to the participation of individuals in the protection of natural resources and ecosystems throughout the national territory. Moreover, taking into account the alarming problem of environmental leaders who have been assassinated and which places Colombia among the three most dangerous countries for the defense of the environment.

Having said that, the aim of this presentation is to analyze, from a Colombia political and legal perspective, the evolution and efforts that have been made to achieve female participation in environmental matters since the Colombian Constitution of 1991, overall, relating this idea with the increasing extractive activity of nonrenewable natural resources in the territory. Consequently, it will be explained how, in order to strengthen the notion of environmental democracy, it is essential to enlarge and include the voice of those women that historically have been diminished and ignored in a Colombian context that urgently needs a renewal from violence, inequality and poverty.